



April 15, 2016

Robert A. Kaplan  
Acting Regional Administrator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Kaplan, *Bob*

Here is an additional copy of the information we provided you electronically last week regarding the results of the initial well sampling effort that was conducted in Kewaunee County in November, 2015. While this represents preliminary data, and not official findings of the study that is being conducted, it does represent the most scientifically valid and complete picture that we have at this time regarding the status of well contamination in this area. While, due to privacy restrictions, the department does not have access to information regarding results on specific wells, we are reaching out to all participants in the study with department contacts and other information regarding how to address a given contaminant, and what assistance might be available through the state.

As we have discussed with you and your staff, we have taken the following actions:

- Initiated the hiring of an environmental enforcement specialist that will focus on water quality issues in Kewaunee and adjoining counties,
- Redeployed resources to allow us to hire three vacant CAFO permitting staff positions,
- Met with CAFO and other producers in Kewaunee County to review the work group recommendations and solicit their input and buy-in on best management practices going forward,
- Established a management and staff infrastructure to coordinate our review and implementation of not only the work group recommendations but other identified solution steps,
- And planned a more robust land spreading auditing approach to help ensure that approved nutrient management plans are properly implemented.

In addition, we will be moving forward to address the work group recommendations in a variety of ways including:

- Reaching out to northeastern Wisconsin counties in the "karst area" to improve our communication and coordinate activities (Initial meeting scheduled for May 2),

- Updating our website to ensure important information, such as how to identify issues with a well and well testing information, is prominently displayed and easily accessible,
- Reviewing the Best Management Work Group recommendations along with those from the other work groups when they become available and developing plans for implementation, including administrative rule revisions as appropriate,
- Holding a public informational meeting in Kewaunee County once all the recommendations from the work groups have been received and implementation steps developed,
- Continuing to work directly with the stakeholders of Kewaunee and adjacent counties through an Alternative Practices Work Group (that will focus on continued development of ideas and recommendations for additional best management practices) and a Communication / Implementation Work Group that will continuously address communication issues and serve as a forum regarding the implementation of the recommendations and their effectiveness.

As you know, the DNR acts to protect the quality of water throughout the State of Wisconsin. This effort has added challenges with approximately 800,000 private wells in Wisconsin. We are interested in discussing on Monday's call other states that struggle with the regulation of private wells. Further, we would like to know what actions EPA has taken or required states to take when contaminants are found in private wells and also whether EPA is aware of any best management practices being applied in other states that could be implemented here.

Our intention and hope is that our agencies can continue to work and coordinate together as we address the recommendations, use adaptive management techniques to improve their effectiveness, and continue to conduct research to add to our knowledge on how to better protect our water resources in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Stepp", written in a cursive style.

Cathy Stepp  
Secretary